## II. CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (Currently Amended) A system for controlling a franking machine from a remote computer, comprising:

control software ~~for controlling said~~associated with the franking machine and allowing functions of the franking machine to be operated remotely from the computer;

communications apparatus for said franking machine to communicate with said computer;

a user application operating on said computer to interface with said control software associated with the franking machine via said communications apparatus; and

a programming library ~~for communicating with said~~associated with the user application, said programming library providing said user application with a series of functional controls of said franking machine by simulating a user interface of the franking machine on the computer and allowing a user to select and control each function of the franking machine remotely from the computer.

2. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein said functional controls include at least one item selected from the group consisting of connection, configuration, actions, departments and statistics.

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3. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium having stored therein computer readable code for interacting with a user application running on a computer communicating with a franking machine, said computer readable code comprising:

   a programming library for communicating with said user application, said programming library providing said user application with a series of functional controls of said franking machine remotely from the computer by simulating a user interface of the franking machine on the computer and allowing a user to select and control each function of the franking machine remotely from the computer.

4. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 3 wherein said functional controls include at least one item selected from the group consisting of connection, configuration, actions, departments and statistics.

5. (Currently Amended) A method for operating a franking machine which is in communication with a computer, comprising:

   running a user application on said computer;

   accessing a programming library for communicating with said user application, said programming library providing said user application with a simulated display of a user interface of the franking machine that provides a series of functional controls of said franking machine that can be accessed from and controlled remotely from the computer; and

allowing the user to select functions of the franking machine from the simulated display and user interface of the computer that generates commands to control each respective function of the franking machine.

6.    (Original) The method of claim 5 further comprising performing at least one operation using said functional controls, wherein said functional controls include at least one item selected from the group consisting of connection, configuration, actions, departments and statistics.

7.    (New) The system of claim 1 further comprising at least one mailing system peripheral device coupled to the computer and adapted to provide or receive information needed for franking a mailpiece.

8.    (New) The system of claim 7 wherein the at least one peripheral device comprises a postage scale.

9.    (New) The system of claim 7 wherein the at least one peripheral device comprises a barcode reader.

10.   (New) The method of claim 5 further comprising prior to accessing the programming library of entering a key code in the computer to enable remote control of the franking machine.

11. (New) The method of claim 5 further comprising disabling a control panel of the franking machine and enable control of the franking machine solely from the computer.

12. (New) A control system for a postal meter comprising:

a computer;

at least one franking machine coupled to the computer via a communication network;

a remote control device associated with the franking machine, the remote control device interfaced between the franking machine and the computer, the remote control device adapted to allow the computer to control the franking machine upon an execution of control commands received from the computer;

a franking machine control library associated with the computer that simulates a user interface of the franking machine on a display of the computer and allows a user to access and control each function of the franking machine from the computer by the issuance of a control command to the remote control device upon the user's activation of a function displayed on the computer.

13. (New) The control system of claim 12 wherein the control library allows a user to reconfigure a layout of the user interface of the franking machine on the computer.